To: Mr. John Doe, Principal

From: Ms. Rachel Gosney

Date: June 5, 2014

RE: Curriculum Proposal: Classroom Discipline Policy

While Gosney Central High School does not use corporal punishment as often as most schools in our district, the School-Wide Discipline Policy currently allows corporal punishment for poor behavior. As you are well aware, many states have banned corporal punishment in schools due to its potential and negative side effects on children. As an educator, it is my job to ensure the safety of my students, therefore I am writing today to obtain your permission to use a different form of punishment for my classroom.

In this discipline policy, I plan to make a contract with my students on what they deem both acceptable and unacceptable behaviors. After discussing these behaviors, I will instruct them to brainstorm non-violent punishment methods which will not only correct the misbehavior, but hold each of them accountable for their actions. Of course, the teacher and principal, will have the final say in which punishments will be allowed. I strongly believe that if students feel they have some control over punishment in an academic setting that they will strive to meet the standards they set for themselves. Not only will misbehavior decline, but student engagement and grades should rise as a result of the classroom discipline policy. Implementing this policy will also put control back into the classroom teacher’s hands, thus reducing and possibly eliminating referrals and office visits.

I believe that my classroom discipline policy idea fits our school perfectly. Here at GCHS, we pride ourselves to not only enable our students to excel and become lifelong learners and achievers, but we also promote having a “safe learning environment”. My question to you is this: how can we meet our own standard for a safe learning environment when our school occasionally uses corporal punishment as a form of discipline?

If approved, I would like to implement this new classroom discipline policy to start off the Fall 2014 school year during the first week of classes. If the policy works according to plan, I would like to later consult with you on using the same policy for GCHS. As far as costs or issues are concerned, I do not see any forthcoming. In fact, I believe that this policy will save all of us time, and any funds used on the current policy could go towards other expenses. I look forward to hearing your feedback on this matter.